

ISAAC JACOB AND MARY MATILDA GERBER JACOB

Isaac Jacob was the son of Norton Jacob and Emily Heaton Jacob. Born June 24, 1852, in Salt Lake City. Married Mary Matilda Gerber June 27, 1877, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. Died April 19, 1929, Salt Lake City. Buried in Midway.

Mary Matilda Gerber, daughter of Dr. John Gerber and Anna Maria Ackert Gerber. Born October 11, 1858, in Washington, Washington County. Died March 17, 1954, Los Angeles, California. Buried in Midway.

Isaac Jacob was born in Salt Lake City. The family later lived in Payson a short time. However, when Isaac was six years old they had moved to Midway, and here Isaac spent the next forty years of his life. From his illustrious father he learned much about building and was very active in assisting with building projects in early Midway. He did much logging, in the mountains nearby, thus obtaining building material from the saw mill in exchange for the logs. Through his industry he completed a home before he married.

For some time Isaac lived at his brother Joseph's home. Joseph had married Eleonora (Ellen) Gerber. Her younger sister, Mary Matilda, often visited in their home and thus she became well acquainted with Isaac. They began "keeping company" when he was 20 and she 14. After five years they were married in the Salt Lake Endowment House, June 27, 1877.

Mary Matilda Gerber was a daughter of Dr. John and Anna Maria Ackert Gerber, being the sixth child in this early pioneer family. The family lived in Cove Fort, and Provo, before settling in Midway in 1861. About 1867 they spent some months in Parleys Canyon where they lived in a "dug-out." Here the resourceful mother made gingerbread and lunches and sold to the travelers, thus assisting with the living.

In 1868 the Gerber family moved to Salt Lake City, where they lived in one of Sarah M. Kinball's houses. Here the father practiced medicine and the family had a better living than they had had for some time. However, they remained but three years, when they returned to Midway. Shortly thereafter her father contracted pneumonia and died.

The children gathered greens which supplied most of the diet. Matilda went into

the grain fields with her brothers and sisters and gleaned grain enough each fall to keep them in flour for the year. They gathered hops and sold them to the store. They had no stove, but cooked on a fireplace, kettles being hung on large hooks. The bread was baked in large iron skillets, covered over the top with live coals. The grasshoppers were so thick it was difficult to cook without getting them in the food. To start fires they would watch to see who had smoke coming from their fireplace or chimney and go get some live coals, hurry home and start their fire as matches were very scarce.

Matilda was gifted as a milliner. She made herself a hat from straw gathered from the field. She bleached the straw in a barrel with sulphur smoke, braided it in three strands. She trimmed the hat with a horse hair flower and added a few beads. She became so interested she went to Salt Lake and studied the millinery trade. After her marriage she had her shop in one room of her house and continued in this profession for ten years. She also gave dressmaking lessons.

Eleven children were born to this couple and in addition they reared a girl from infancy.

Isaac and Matilda were both very active in Church work. Isaac served as superintendent of the Sunday School for over thirty years. He aided in the building committees and held various other offices in the different organizations. He was advanced in the Priesthood and finally was ordained to the office of a High Priest by Hyrum G. Smith, in Hinckley, Utah, in 1919. Isaac was kind and generous and never turned anyone from his door, but always aided those less fortunate than he. He was always known for his integrity and honesty. Usually when people needed to borrow money they would go to Abram Hatch. He would tell them if they could get Isaac Jacob to sign with them they could have the loan. Likewise, he could get credit anywhere as his word was as good as his bond. He served many years as road commissioner in Midway and was a successful cattle man.

He died in Salt Lake City at the age of 77, and was buried in Midway.

Matilda was set apart as president of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association by Eliza R. Snow and Zina D. Young, who were at that time organizing the associations throughout the county. She

took this office before the birth of her first child and continued therein until after her sixth baby was born. For many years she had charge of the wheat for the Relief Society in Midway. Matilda was the youngest girl to join the Relief Society in Midway, being just 14 years of age. She began serving as a visiting teacher and faithfully fulfilled this assignment for 70 years. She also assisted with the directing of plays.

She died at the age of 94 at a daughter's home in Los Angeles, California. Funeral services were held in Salt Lake City and she was buried in Midway.

Children of Isaac and Mary Matilda Jacob included:

Mary;
Matilda;
Adelia;
Ellen;
Elsie;
Ellis;
Byron;
Earl;
Etta;

— twins who died of prematurity.

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